The following invention is claimed:

1.   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for extracting information from a Page/Image Archive (PIA) file in response to a user-selected parameter, which when executed by a computer:

5   receive at least one user-selected parameter related to the information to be extracted from the PIA file;

receive the PIA formatted file;

convert the PIA file to a file format suitable for extraction of information based upon the user-selected parameter;

10   extract information from the converted PIA file based on the user-selected parameter; and

expose the extracted information.

2.   The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the extracted information is exposed a computer process that uses statistical algorithms to

15   discover patterns and correlations in the extracted information.

3.   A computer implemented process for extracting information from a Page/Image Archive (PIA) file in response to a user-selected parameter and, comprising:

receiving at least one user-selected parameter related to the

20   information to be extracted from the PIA file;

receiving the PIA formatted file;

converting the PIA file to a file format suitable for extraction of information based upon the user-selected parameter;

extracting information from the converted PIA file based on the

25   user-selected parameter; and

exposing the extracted information.

10

4.   The computer-implemented process of claim 3, wherein the extracted information is exposed to a computer process that uses statistical algorithms to discover patterns and correlations in the extracted information.

5.   A computer system for extracting information from a Page/Image Archive (PIA) file in response to a user-selected parameter and exposing it to a tool for discovery of implicit, previously unknown, and potentially useful information, comprising:

a processor:

a memory storage device coupled to the processor for maintaining the PIA file and the user-selected parameter;

the processor being operative to conduct the following tasks:

receive at least one user-selected parameter related to the information to be extracted from the PIA file;

receive the PIA formatted file;

convert the PIA file to a file format suitable for extraction of information based upon the user-selected parameter;

extract information from the converted PIA file based on the user-selected parameter; and

expose the extracted information.

11